PM's statement on 'Compromise' on J&K

1256. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit to Germany, the Prime Minister is reported to have said that India will have to make some 'Compromise' on Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the basis on which Prime Minister made this statement;

(c) whether this statement is contrary to the unanimous resolution passed by Parliament in 1994 that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was the integral part of India; and

(d) does the question of compromise come on Jammu and Kashmir arise; if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. During his visit to Germany Prime Minister spoke of his peace initiative and emphasised that while we had taken some steps, we would be willing to take more steps if there was a matching response from Pakistan, adding that the right environment had to be created for a dialogue. There was no mention of any "compromise" on Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) and (d) No. Government's position on the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been consistent and principled. The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of Indian Union and a part of its territory is under illegal occupation by Pakistan.

Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan jails

1257. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen arrested and detained by the Sri Lankan Government during the last three years;

(b) how many of them are still languishing in the Sri Lanka jails; and

(c) what actions have been taken or are proposed to be taken to release those fishermen?